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CURRENT LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer, comprising:

a read station rotatable between an entry position and a read position housing;

a detector coupled to said read station at said read position for detecting radiant energy or color emanating from said read station ~~connected to said housing~~;

a transport device for transporting a plurality of vessels through a defined path, each of said vessels containing at least one bound analyte and at least one compound for emitting radiant energy or color, and for transferring one of said plurality of vessels into said read station at said entry position; and

~~a transfer device for transferring one of said plurality of vessels from said transport device into said housing, wherein said housing having a shield for shielding radiant energy emanating from a source outside of said housing from being detected by said detector, whereby only radiant energy from said one of said plurality of vessels transferred from said transport device by said transferring device is detected by said detector, and~~

wherein said read station is capable of rotating a transferred vessel from said entry position to said read position independently of motion of said plurality of vessels through said defined path.

2. (Original) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector detects chemiluminescence.

3. (Original) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector detects fluorescence.

4. (Original) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector detects phosphorescence.

5. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, wherein said read station housing includes

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a ~~shield mechanism~~ for ~~shielding moving~~ said ~~transferred vessel~~ ~~one of said plurality of~~ vessels from ~~external radiant energy~~ ~~an unshielded position~~ when it is transferred ~~to~~ from said ~~read~~ transport device ~~to said housing to a shielded position~~ when said detector is detecting said radiant energy.

6. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 5, wherein ~~said read station biases a means for biasing~~ the test vessel in said ~~read station~~ ~~detection station~~ a set distance from the ~~detector~~ ~~detection mechanism~~ when in the read position.

7. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 5, wherein said ~~read station~~ ~~mechanism for moving~~ operates by rotational movement.

8. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 5, wherein said ~~read station~~ ~~mechanism for moving~~ ~~further moves~~ said ~~transferred vessel~~ ~~one of said plurality of vessels~~ to a disposal position for disposing of said vessel after it moves said vessel to said ~~read~~ ~~shielded~~ position.

9. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 8 ~~[[7]]~~, wherein said ~~read station~~ ~~mechanism for moving~~ operates by rotational movement.

10. (Original) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, wherein said transport device is a continuous carousel, chain or belt which includes a plurality of vessel receptacles for receiving each of said plurality of vessels.

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11. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 10 ~~[[9]]~~, wherein said continuous chain or belt can receive vessels in said vessel receptacles at a plurality of locations.

12. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, further comprising an attenuation means for attenuating light signals entering said detector from said read station.

13. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 12, wherein said attenuation means is ~~includes an attenuation device~~ located between said read station housing and said detector, wherein said attenuation means ~~device~~ can be set at any one of at least two attenuation positions. ~~[[,]]~~

14. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 13 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein said any one of at least two attenuation positions include: an unattenuated position where light from said vessel can be read directly by said detector, and an attenuated position where light from said vessel can be read by the detector through a neutral density filter.

15. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 12, wherein said attenuation means is ~~includes an attenuation device~~ located between said read station housing and said detector, wherein said attenuation means ~~device~~ can be set at any one of at least three attenuation positions.

16. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 15 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein said any one of at least three attenuation positions include: an unattenuated position where light from said vessel can be read directly by said detector, a dark position where no light from said

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vessel can be read by said detector, and an attenuated position where light from said vessel can be read by the detector through a neutral density filter.

17. (Currently amended) The analyte detection station for an automated immunoassay analyzer as recited in claim 1, further comprising [[a]] means for measuring dark counts for determining ambient light levels within the detector ~~detection means~~.